

## Message Text

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63

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 AID-20

FRB-02 TRSE-00 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 068652

P R 242032Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5717

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1342

DEPT ALSO PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN EGEN TD

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PARLIAMENT APPROVES BWIA LOAN GUARANTEE FOR 707

REF: STATE 201584; POS 1241; STATE 171825 (NOTAL)

1. BY A CLOSE 11 TO 8 VOTE ON OCTOBER 23, T&T SENATE APPROVED RAISING THE CEILING FOR GOTT GUARANTEES OF LOANS TO THE LARGELY STATE-OWNED AIRLINE, BWIA, FROM TT\$75 MILLION TO TT\$100 MILLION. NARROW SENATE VOTE MARGIN WAS MARKED BY ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ON MERITS OF GOTT'S SINKING MORE MONEY INTO DEFICIT-RIDDEN AIRLINE. THIS ACTION, FOLLOWING PREVIOUS DAY'S ROUTINE APPROVAL BY HOUSE, CLEARS THE WAY FOR US\$8.4 MILLION FINANCING FOR PURCHASE OF A USED 707-320 JET FROM NORTHWEST AIRLINES. FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FINANCING TO BE PROVIDED BY EXIMBANK (REFTELS). (GOTT'S PUBLIC REVELATION OF EXIMBANK FINANCING WAS APPARENTLY THOUGHT NECESSARY TO ENSURE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL AND WAS, WE HOPE, CLEARED DIRECTLY WITH EXIMBANK.)

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2. GOTT TOOK OCCASION OF REQUEST FOR SENATE ACTION TO MAKE OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO RENDER BWIA MORE PROFITABLE (I.E., TO REDUCE ITS HEAVY CURRENT OPERATING LOSSES). MEASURES INCLUDE NEW DIRECT FLIGHTS TO LONDON (INSTEAD OF PRESENT ABC CHARTER OPERATION TO LONDON) STARTING NEXT APRIL AT RATE OF 2 PER WEEK. OTHER STEPS ANNOUNCED INCLUDE RESERVATION OF GOTT DIPLOMATIC MAIL TO BWIA WHEN POSSIBLE; MAXIMUM USE POSSIBLE OF BWIA BY TRAVELING OFFICIALS FROM GOTT MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENT AND STATUTORY BOARDS; POSSIBLE OPERATION BY BWIA OF CARGO AND PASSENGER HANDLING SERVICES AT PIARCO AIRPORT; AND RESERVATION OF TRANSPORTATION OF OUTBOUND AIRMAIL TO BWIA TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO MONITOR GOTT'S ASSISTANCE TO BWIA ESPECIALLY TO AVOID DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT, SUCH AS MONOPOLY CARRIAGE OF AIRMAIL. WILL REGARD TO POSSIBLE TAKE-OVER OF AIRPORT SERVICES AT PIARCO, PANAM HAS LONG NOTED THAT BWIA ALREADY ENJOYS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, WITH CLOSEST GATE POSITIONS AND MOST FAVORABLE GROUND HANDLING TREATMENT (SEE POS A-44, JUNE 25, 1973).  
MARSHALL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 FEB 2002  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** ETRN, EGEN, TD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005